

What is claimed is:

1. A loading indicator for use in a firearm having a barrel including a rear section and a cartridge chamber, the loading indicator comprising:

an elastic shaft disposed within a compartment in the rear section of the barrel;
a feeler portion coupled to the elastic shaft, wherein the elastic shaft is loaded to cause the feeler portion to project into the cartridge chamber and wherein the loading of the elastic shaft allows the feeler portion to be displaced when a cartridge is placed into the cartridge chamber; and

an indicator element adjacent the feeler portion and coupled to the elastic shaft, wherein the indicator element projects from the cartridge chamber when the feeler portion is displaced by a cartridge.

2. A loading indicator as defined by claim 1, wherein the compartment in the rear section of the barrel comprises a diameter larger than that of the shaft, and the shaft is bendable from the cartridge chamber to find a mount by being clamped in the compartment.

3. A loading indicator as defined by claim 2, wherein the feeler portion and the indicator element are coupled to a first end of the shaft and wherein the second end of the shaft comprises a bent end and wherein the compartment includes a recess into which the bent end is placed.

4. A loading indicator according to claim 3, wherein the recess is formed by a transverse drill hole that is made through an outer wall of the barrel and into the compartment.

5. A loading indicator as defined by claim 1, wherein the indicator element comprises one of a spring wire, a leaf spring and a plastic part and wherein at least part indicator element is colored with a color that contrasts with an outer surface of the cartridge chamber.

6. A loading indicator as defined by claim 1, wherein the compartment is located in a thickened section of the barrel and the cartridge chamber that, in automatic pistols that are ready to fire, goes through an ejector window forms a locking projection.

7. A loading indicator for use in a firearm including a barrel and a cartridge chamber having a notch in the outermost rear portion of the cartridge chamber, the loading indicator comprising:

a feeler projecting into the cartridge chamber;
an indicator element projecting to the outside from a loaded cartridge chamber;

wherein the feeler and the indicator element are constructed as a single part that sits in the notch in the cartridge chamber and that is loaded so that it is elastic to the inside of the cartridge chamber, wherein the single part is constructed as a single-piece wire strap comprising one of spring wire and a plastic part that sits on the cartridge chamber, and wherein the single part extends through an elastic shaft that sits in a longitudinal drill hole that is constructed parallel to the cartridge chamber and adjacent the cartridge chamber in a structural part that forms the barrel.

8. A loading indicator as defined by claim 7, characterized in that a diameter of the longitudinal drill hole is larger than the diameter of the elastic shaft, and the elastic shaft is easily bent away from the cartridge chamber, in order to find a mount by being clamped in the longitudinal drill hole, and to have a sufficient spring path.

9. A loading indicator as defined by claim 8, wherein the longitudinal drill hole comprises a recess that a bent end of the elastic shaft grasps.

10. A loading indicator as defined by claim 9, comprising a transverse drill hole in an outer wall of the cartridge chamber and that passes through the longitudinal drill hole and forms the recess at its end.

11. A loading indicator as defined by claim 7, wherein at least a part of the single-piece wire strap comprises a color that contrasts with an outer surface of the cartridge chamber.

12. A loading indicator as defined by claim 7 wherein the longitudinal drill hole is located in a thickened section of the barrel and the cartridge chamber that forms a locking projection in an automatic firearm.

13. A barrel for a firearm, the barrel comprising:
a locking projection including a longitudinal drill hole;
a cartridge chamber adjacent the locking projection, wherein the cartridge chamber comprises a notch on an outermost portion of the cartridge chamber; and
a unitary loading indicator located in the longitudinal drill hole and the notch, wherein the unitary loading indicator includes a feeler projecting into the cartridge chamber, an indicator element projecting from the cartridge chamber when a cartridge is inserted therein, and wherein the unitary loading indicator is elastic.

14. A barrel for a firearm as defined by claim 13, wherein the unitary loading indicator comprises a single-piece wire strap.

15. A barrel for a firearm as defined by claim 14, wherein the unitary loading indicator comprises one of spring wire, a leaf spring, and a plastic part.

16. A barrel for a firearm as defined by claim 13, wherein a diameter of the longitudinal drill hole is larger than a diameter of the unitary loading indicator, and wherein the unitary loading indicator is easily bent away from the cartridge chamber to find a mount by being clamped in the longitudinal drill hole while still having a spring path.

17. A barrel for a firearm as defined by claim 16, wherein the longitudinal drill hole includes a recess into which a bent end of the unitary loading indicator extends.

18. A barrel for a firearm as defined by claim 17, wherein the recess is formed by a transverse drill hole in an outer wall of the cartridge chamber that extends into and through the longitudinal drill hole.

19. A barrel for a firearm as defined by claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the unitary loading indicator is colored to contrast with an outer surface of the cartridge chamber.